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The Red River,
New Mexico Story

by

F. Stanley Croschola



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P. O. Drawer 128, Pantex, Texas

The Red River, New Mexico Story

By F. Stanley

AS EARLY AS 1874, LT. E. H. BUFFNER, of the U. S. Engineers, wrote to the Secretary of War that he thought the Red River area over-stocked in cattle, over-grazed and undesirable as a passage or roadway to Taos. "From the Rio Colorado (i. e. Questa), he wrote, "to Taos, about twenty-five miles of bad road are encountered; steep hills, up and down which the road goes without the slightest regard to the action of gravitation, are additionally annoying to anyone who will notice how easily they may be turned or the road relocated on reasonable grades. The soil is good, and the grazing abundant, and water is found almost anywhere. The pine forests of the mountains come down over these foothills, and there is a surprising quantity of good timber. The valleys of the streams are found in canons, and the lava-field of the Rio Grande has spurs stretching up these canons to a permanent ruin of all the roads found therein. In order to make this section of road really safely passable, work must be done between the Rio Colorado and Taos to considerable extent."

However, the people of Taos, Costilla, Questa and the Taos valley were not concerned with opinions of engineers. They grazed cattle, goats and sheep in what we know as the Red River country long before Lt. Buffner came by to inspect the area. Before the New Mexicans, Utes and Jicarillas claimed the site, Comanches attacked Apaches here as early as 1742, and other tribes infiltrated on their way to the Pueblo Fair at Taos. The militia from Questa fought

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Apaches here in 1852, after the Indians staged a raid on that town. The Pryor Brothers had a round-up of cattle in the fall of 1883 and Lorenzo Lopez of Las Vegas cut hay here during the same year. To celebrate the success of both the cattle drive and the hay-cutting, a baile was held at Sabinoso in the Ute Creek area in which Roman Martinez was badly injured after a free-for-all fight, customary in those days of knifing and shooting.

Horse racing was a popular sport in the Canon Largo, but a combination of circumstances prevented people from Ute Creek, Cimarron, Taos, Questa and Costilla from making any permanent settlement in this upper Red River country. Rustlers and outlaws outnumbered the Indians. Small pox put in appearance causing a stillness at Red River. Discovery of rich mineral deposits around Willow Creek no doubt sent prospectors scurrying to Red River shortly after the Civil War but no strikes were made as at Elizabethtown, Virginia City (New Mexico) and other now forgotten places. Sheepherders from Costilla, Questa, Lucero, Arroyo Hondo, Valdez and Arroyo Seco continued to graze flocks in the immediate vicinity of the site of Red River City. Utes and Jicarillas continued to hunt here even after the sale of the Maxwell Land Grant. Prospectors found the silence of the valley restful but their restless quest for gold sent them elsewhere. The time was not now.

These prospectors were able to band together to form the little community of Franklin Park at the northwestern tip of Ute Creek. No one from this hamlet made a strike. It was left to three French-Canadian trappers — Orin Mallette, Vet Mallette and George Mallette — to give the Red River country to the world. Word came through the grapevine that these three brothers were panning gold. The rush was on. In instances like this townsite promoters always have their ears to the ground. E. I. Jones, up in Colorado Springs, decided to visit the Malletes. If a gold mining camp was to be formed he wanted to be the father-founder. One of the brothers was not convinced; he suspected Jones of ulterior motives. Two brothers decided that he was buying land in order to work a mining claim. They sold for a

dollar. Later they realized that Jones had in mind homestead rights and townsite rights. Coupled with this townsite fight was another more serious threat from a land company, also in Colorado Springs, that sought to dispossess squatters and prospectors said to be on private property.

Red River City, as the new mining town was called, was one unhappy place. Officials from Colorado Springs let it be known that practically all the settlers were squatters camped on private property. Every morning a miner woke up to find another building up against his shack, the newcomer showing a deed for the land issued by the grant company in Colorado. This alleged land grant had been passed upon and rejected by the U. S. Court of Private Land Claims. The people claimed that they held title to a deed given three men in 1836 granting them the right to graze cattle on the site of Red River City. The Colorado promoters insisted that they bought the land in good faith from the heirs of the original owners. Many homesteaders left Red River City because they realized that the claimants were able to keep the case in the Supreme Court for at least six years. There should have been no cause for alarm as the town almost died a-borning as very little gold was found. No doubt most miners went about their tasks half-heartedly fearing that the grant people would claim all the minerals they unearthed. But enough remained to be worried by rustlers, claim-jumpers, con-men, gold-brickers, drunks, outlaws and trouble makers. Refusing to be crushed by fourteen years of inertia, the miners called together all the people of the town and held a mass meeting for the purpose of choosing a candidate for deputy-sheriff, and a road overseer. The meeting was called to order by Z. Cushing. J. M. Phipps and E. I. Jones were nominated for the office of deputy-sheriff. Phipps won with sixty-four votes; Jones received one vote. M. Clelland and S. M. Mallette were nominated for the office of road overseer. Clelland withdrew in favor of Mallette who received a unanimous vote. Paul Baca was elected Justice of the Peace. This was on August 15, 1896. Although historians place 1895 as the year the town was founded, the above date is more in keep-

inging with town affairs and organization. But all of this did not stop the grant people from fighting for their rights. They eventually won the case.

"A mass meeting was held Wednesday afternoon (September 22, 1897) calling for all the citizens to settle the townsite question. Mr. Brailey called the meeting in order and read a lengthy proposition from the Colorado Springs people who claim the townsite, the main features of which were that the citizens assign the townsite over to the claimants, owners of property here to have the privilege of buying their lots or removing their improvements. The price to fixed by arbitration — the company to appoint an appraiser, the owners another; both to agree on a third. The company further agreed to pay all costs and assist financially in settling the grant question. A committee of five was appointed with power to close the deal, getting the company to agree to a modification of some of the clauses in their proposition if possible." (CRESSET).

Just when these combinations of circumstances spelled the collapse of Red River City, a rich strike was made at the Black Copper claim and once again a boom was on. By April, 1897, the population was four thousand. One big strike in the Red River district, fifteen miles from Red River City, was assayed at \$7,800 to the ton. The discovery was made by Marchino and Lachinbach. These two had worked in silence for eight years, digging and hoping, until their patience paid off. Most of their work was on Cripple Creek, not to be confused with the more widely known creek of the same name in Colorado. This is near Red River. The miners, prospectors, surveyors, business men and settlers must have been avid readers for the town boasted the following papers at one time or another: THE RED RIVER RECORD, RED RIVER PROSPECTOR, RED RIVER SUN, RED RIVER NEWS, RED RIVER RUSTLER. THE RUSTLER is a post-World War II paper. All the others save THE RED RIVER SUN were short-lived. The SUN might have endured had the printing press not been destroyed in the fire of 1907. A school was erected; Edith Darling hired to teach. She resigned on December 15th and the school

board immediately hired R. B. Abbott to finish out the school term.

During that same month of December a literary society was formed and meetings held in the various homes. "Red River, according to her population," said the editor of the CRESSET, Feb., 1899), "is not behind her sister cities in enterprise. We have a day school, a Sunday School, a literary society and a Miners Protective Association. Also Mrs. C. G. Clelland expects to have a Spanish classroom." Abbott refused to renew his contract at the end of the term so Simon Katz taught a subscription school. J. T. Burns and John Fair freighted from Red River to Trinidad, Antonito and other points; J. P. Phipps and George Walters had a merchandise business. Landadoff came in from Leadville, Colorado, to lease mining claims; the Abbott Brothers bought the Jayhawk store and stocked it with goods needed by the townspeople; George Mallette went into the dairy business even though he often had to go as far as Costilla in quest of feed; Joe Floyd was the town gardener; Ed Westoby became deputy sheriff; John Bianchi, of Sophis, Colorado, became a partner in the Red River General Merchandise Store; Louis Macarti opened a dry goods store; W. J. Cartright opened a freight business; James Biglow and George Walters built homes, the better homes going up in what was called the Brooklyn Extension of Red River City; Ed Halton built the hotel.

Red Riverites were interested in a new county. THE ELIZABETHTOWN MINER took exception to this, saying that if any place should be the county seat for a new county it should be venerable Elizabethtown. R. Abbott, in his paper, countered that Elizabethtown misunderstood the motives behind the need for a new county. However, he agreed with many that Red River was not ready to assume the responsibility of a new county nor a county seat. The Red River Town Company issued deeds to lots as fast as the title bonds were sent to their office in Colorado Springs to be approved by the company. The Red River paper for Marsh 12, 1899, had this to say for the literary society: "The literary society rendered an excellent program last Friday

evening. The music, speaking and the dialogue were all finely rendered. It is pleasing to note the interest the people take in these exercises. They are not only entertaining but also very instructive."

The paper (March 30 issue) was also pleased to tell its readers: "Red River today is at the turning point in its career. The long continued discontent and bickering between the people and the townsite company has almost passed, and the doors of the district are now open to mining and milling enterprises. The citizens should therefore set aside personal animosities, and pull together for their mutual benefit. The district will take on new life and prove that is all that has been claimed. The speculative days of Cripple Creek have passed, and the unsurpassed miners and prospectors of that and other camps, backed by operators with means, are looking for new fields to move into — in fact they have, for three years, been seeking a new camp of merit, and although a score of camps have been started in Colorado during the time scarcely one of them achieved more than temporary fame, because they lacked the one essential qualification to make a new camp successful. This Red River has without question, although a low grade variety, with few exceptions where the development has been greatest. Red River could supply mills like the camp at Cochiti with ore running from ten dollars to eighteen to the ton with machinery of the right kind. There isn't the shadow of a doubt that the Red River mining district will attract attention. Merchants and business men will experience a revival in trade."

J. B. Young was postmaster; E. I. Redding came in from Questa to open a saloon in the Mallette building; Mrs. W. N. Lindsay opened a boarding house in the Katz building opposite the postoffice; Dr. Cahill was the town doctor. The hotel in Red River was known as the Pioneer House. School opened late that year, October 19th to be exact, with Thomas English of Johnson Mesa as teacher. Twenty-two pupils were enrolled. John Williams moved his saloon from Elizabethtown to Red River. The newspaper in early July carried these interesting items: "Red

River had a fine time on the Fourth of July. There was singing, music and speaking, also races of all kinds. Little Joe Phipps carried off the prize in the boys race and Bessie Phipps won the girls race. Coke, ice cream, lemonade was free to all. A dance in the evening was enjoyed by all present. In the parlor of the Clair Hotel one day this week, Ray Wilborn and Bessie Winecup, of Baldy, New Mexico, were married by Judge L. Dow of this place. The couple had supper at the hotel and returned to Elizabethtown." This is the first time I've run across the term "coke" in the New Mexico newspapers. Moxie was the super-duper soft drink in my teens. Never even heard of coke except in mining towns. You don't drink that kind of coke.

George Oldham, Read Oldham and Richard Oldham were early settlers and prospectors in the Red River country. Red River is directly east of Questa in the northeastern part of Taos county. Most visitors came in by way of Raton, Springer, Cimarron and Elizabethtown and many are surprised to find that it is not in Colfax county. Other early settlers were Phillip Coffelt, Ellis Wade Coffelt, Jarret Moad, Granville Moad, Vesta Coffelt, who married F. S. Armstrong of Trinidad, Colorado, J. B. Young, C. Stevens was the editor of the RED RIVER PROSPECTOR. Maud Clelland set type for the paper; Marceline McMahan inked the type for fifty cents a week. Bessie Phipps married a fellow named Burrows. Red River had no church but services were held in the school house. Priests came in from Elizabethtown, Quesa and Costilla during the fall, spring and summer. Ministers of various other denominations also came from these places as well as Trinidad, Raton, Springer and Cimarron. C. S. Bristow started a class in mechanical engineering but had very little success. The next school teacher was L. W. Brown. Another pioneer teacher in the subscription days was Mrs. Ida Phipps, the mother of Bert, Charles and Bessie. The first school was a log building. The new building was not built until 1915. Some of the children to attend classes under the tutorlege of Brown were Willis Hatton, Maud Cannon, Charlotte Brandenburg, Ernest Hatton, Agnes Hatton, Ida Hatton, Delsie Hamblen,

Esther Moad, Beulah Mallette, Mable McCollum, Bessie Phipps, Bert Phipps, Lulu Phipps, Wilfred McCollum, Roxie Putnam, Alta Putnam, Solomon Leal, Stella Young, Muriel Young, Mamie Young, Lulu Young, Jesse Young. Brown was not very tall but always neatly dressed. He had a thin face, thick brown hair and was well liked by his pupils. The schoolhouse was also used for Wakes as well as dances. J. B. Young, who owned one of the mercantile stores, was also justice of the peace and notary public. He also found time to run a sawmill. His wife had the only piano in town. The Youngs were quite popular. Suddenly, the boom was over and Red River was well on its way to joining the ranks of the has-beens. By the turn of the century anyone hardly knew that Red River existed. A few die-hards kept on hoping that each new dawn would bring a strike. Finally in 1912 Red River was activated once again.

"Red River City and adjacent country is in the throes of a gold fever. Pay dirt in large quantities are being taken out and development work starts in earnest. After seventeen years of inactivity, the Red River District in the north-eastern corner of Taos county has roused from lethargy and from present indications will soon rank with the best producing mineral regions in the State.

"The history of the camp since the townsite boom in the early 90s is not pleasant reading for many investors who backed their faith in its future with no return for the money expended in most cases injudiciously. Recent disclosures in several properties demonstrated that the failure to open paying proportions lay in the method of the development rather than in the lack of ore bodies. Most of the work was done through cross-cut tunnels, apparently on the theory that wherever a vein outcropped or was uncovered on the surface, its position there fixed its location at any depth from one hundred to one thousand feet. Failure to intersect these veins or if intersected lack of values at the point of contact seems to have been sufficient reason for condemning the property. This, together with unfavorable reports by engineers, who expressed the opinion that value would not remain at depth intimidated capital necessary to

the economical development and operation of any mining enterprise.

"In March, 1912, a revival of interest in the project was evident. Mr. Frank Reed, backed by Trinidad parties, purchased the June Bug mill, remodeled it, and began treating custom ore on a large scale. His demonstration that the ores of the district are amenable to cyanidation had resulted in the discovery of several promising leads, as well as the development of those already discovered. There are now four producing properties within a radius of five miles of the camp of Red River and three others with proper facilities for mining and treating would probably make paying propositions. At present the Caribel group owned by the Caribel Mining and Milling Company, a corporation capitalized at five hundred thousand dollars, ranks foremost amongst the producers.

"Other mines are the Memphis, the Golden Treasurer, the Blue Rock, the Inferno. A rich strike of mineral was made in the Memphis. The ore is of wondrous richness and is encountered in the tunnel one hundred and twenty feet below upper workings. The future of the district is now assured. There is a marked increase in development work and prospecting. The Red River mining district is all excitement over the recent rich strike in the Memphis mine on Bitter creek. William Kershner, one of the owners returned to Raton the latter part of the week with samples of the strike which gave an assay value of \$479.75, as follows: gold, 12.04 ozs. value \$240.80; silver 364.92 ozs. value \$218.95. The vein is from twenty-six to forty inches wide averaging about three feet thick. This high grade ore is encountered in pockets every few feet in the vein. The entire ore body in the vein averages fifty dollars a ton. It yields to cyanide treatment and a quantity of it is now being treated at Pratts mill. This rich strike was made in the lower tunnel and aside from its extreme richness is the most important yet made in the Red River mining district because it establishes the fact that the veins are in place and the ores become richer as depth is gained. The upper tunnel of the Memphis is in ninety feet with several drifts. The

lower tunnel is in one hundred and forty feet, one hundred and twenty feet below the upper workings with one hundred and twenty feet of stopping ore exposed. The high grade ores will be shipped and the remainder will be treated at the local mills. The past two weeks has witnessed the arrival of a number of mining experts who are making a careful investigation of the entire district. Prospectors are also drifting in and the outlook is extremely bright. Some of the more prominent properties in the district are the Jayhawk, Stella, Black Copper, Independence, Midnight, Cora Bell, Golden Treasure and Edson." (RATON REPORTER, May 22, 31, 1913).

Red River needed this boost. When Machino and Lachinbach made their rich strike in 1904, the Independent Mine paid them \$7,280 to the ton, rewarding work after eight years of failure. Even through the lean years school continued. Virginia Stem was the teacher at this time and it speaks well for her couragee for Red River City seemed beyond survival. Shortly after the New Year in 1907 a fire destroyed most of the business places in Red River. The fire was discovered in Ergenbright's saloon about one o'clock in the morning. Unequipped to halt the destruction Red Riverites watched the flames lick up the saloon, the newspaper plant, the store belonging to F. C. Stevens, Mallette Brothers blacksmith shop, an office building and a two-story building belonging to John Cummins. Red River had a small hospital near town situated in a canyon since called Hospital Canyon. The only patient was the doctor who owned it. After he died, it was torn down.

"Louis Scarvada, operating on Bitter Creek, opposite the Memphis, has resumed sinking on his property. The shaft is now down thirty feet and three feet of ore is exposed. A mill run shipped to the smelters in 1913 was settled for on an evaluation of sixty-seven dollars a ton. Mr. Scarvada is patenting his holdings. The Oldham Brothers expect to incorporate in April. Their properties are located on Placer Creek. Four feet of milling ore was encountered in a drift at a depth of one hundred and seventy-five feet before operations were discontinued for the winter. (Raton

paper Feb. 19, 1914).

Vernon Henry, the Christus of the Freiburg Players, came to Red River for eight summers to contemplate the beauty of its natural surroundings. Each time he looked about him Vernon envisioned an amphitheater of transcendent beauty. He often compared the spot to Oberammergau. When Henry accepted the invitation to bring his play to Red River, the little town received aid from all quarters: the press, tourists, musicians, bus lines, railroad lines. Two thousand people were on hand at Red River for the first performance. There was talk of making this the Oberammergau of America, but for some unknown reason the plan failed to materialize. F. A. Jones, in his NEW MEXICO MINES AND MINERALS published in 1904, adds very little to what has already been told:

"The Red River district lies in the eastern part of Taos county, near the line of Colfax county, about twelve miles northwest of Elizabethtown. The country up and down Red river with many of the tributary gulches was prospected in 1869, about three years after the discovery of gold at Elizabethtown. Some placer gold was taken from the streams and gulches; through not in the quantities found about Baldy mountain at Elizabethtown. In 1879 the Waterbury Company built a smelter on the property now known as the Copper King. On account of a deficiency in fluxing materials, and the great distance from a railroad, La Veta, Colorado, being the nearest railway point, the enterprise proved a failure. This smelter was never operated after a trial run or two, and burned down in 1889. Beginning with the years 1893-4, the first systematic prospecting was inaugurated. It was during the year 1894 when the present townsite of Red River City was located by the Mallette brothers. During the fall of 1895 the Golden Treasure and Jayhawk were located. About the time of the permanent settlement of the town, Anchor or Midnight was settled, and two mills at that place were operated for a while; litigation closed the mills and they are at present idle. Red River is a beautiful mountain town and is fast gaining reputation as a summer resort. No mining camp was ever fa-

vored with better facilities for wood and water. The stream of Red River (Rio Colorado) is an ideal one for the installation of electrical power for the purpose of operating all kinds of mills and mining machinery. The time in the future is not far distant when the 'eternal hills' will open up their treasures by responding to the magic touch of a button. The millions of horsepower now going to waste annually, is ample to reduce the ores of the district and convert the rusty metallic sulphides into shining gold.

"Some of the more prominent claims and prospects in the Red River district are: Black Diamond group, Peerless group, Homestake group, Copper Dome, Anaconda group, Standard group, Laura B. and Minnie L., Last Chance, Fort Reno and Deadhead group, Yankee Maid, J. O. G., Deadwood group, Ragged Pants Dick, Golden Treasure, Paxton group, Copper Hill group, Hornet, Rock of Ages, Sure-thing group, Exile group, Bueno, Commodore group and Wild Rose group.

"The Jayhawk mine is the most noted property in the district. H. J. Luce is manager. This mine is situated about three miles above Red River City on what is known as Black mountain. The property consists of five claims: three of which are patented. Present development (January, 1904) consists of over 300 feet of tunnel and 50 feet of shaft. Five distinct leads have been pierced by the tunnel; one of which is nearly 22 feet wide, another 10, and the last one is small but carries the best value. At present this ore is hauled down the mountain, about five miles, where it is concentrated. The capacity of the concentrator is about 30 tons daily. Two Wilfley tables, a sixty horsepower boiler, a fifty horsepower Corliss engine, and a crusher form the principal equipment. In order to avoid the long haul of ore to the mill, the company will soon have a new mill completed which is being erected at the mine. Beside the concentrating plant of the Jayhawk company there are three arrastras being operated in the district with fairly good success; others to be installed soon. This district has many good features; the only thing disparaging is the long distance from transportation."

The broadened interest in skiing throughout the country shortly before World War II helped keep alive the idea that Red River City was not only a summer resort but also catered to winter trade. The facilities for winter sports at Red River are second to none. The town now becoming an all-year playground, a permanent Catholic church was established and other denominations are fast following this example. M. O. Patrick, with the aid of the Red River Chamber of Commerce, established the RED RIVER RUSTLER newspaper in 1947. His column, Red River Ramblers, gave out such bits of information: Tony and Tillie Simion have returned from Phoenix; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gwin are in California for several weeks. Buddy Gallaher accompanied the Gwins to California, and Johnny Gallaher has been away all winter working for the Highway Department. Walter and Winifred Hamilton spent several days in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Roy and Grace Gamble have returned after several days in Wichita Falls, Texas. General and Mrs. W. C. Lewis of Oklahoma City and Washington, D. C. were in Red River for a few days recently. John and Nell Wagner, Mabel Del Rossa and the Patricks made a flying trip to Santa Fe last week. Mrs. Del Rossa remained in Santa Fe for the Easter holidays. Henrietta Mutz spent a week in Albuquerque recently, visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Jones. Little Miss Kathy Brandenburg can now boast of being 'Big Sister' to John David Brandenburg. This young man arrived March 9th, weighing seven pounds, and is the son of Johnny and Rosemary Brandenburg of Siesta Lodge. Everybody well and happy, including Grandma Lottie and Grandpa Jack Brandenburg. Mrs. Nell Wagner was called to Missouri recently on account of the serious illness of her aunt. Her duties of teaching school at the Molly Mine were taken over by Mrs. Del Rosa for the week. George Mallette of Tres Ritos, early-day resident of Red River, visited the valley with his daughter, Mrs. J. E. Hemes, his son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mallette of Las Vegas, New Mexico, niece, Mrs. Ethel Scovil of Los Angeles, California, September 23rd. They renewed acquaintances of the early days and recognized their pictures

(taken when they lived at Red River) in the booklet WAGON DAYS IN RED RIVER. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Simion have been in Raton for sometime where Tillie has been doing double duty as Grandma. Tony Simion, Jr., Betty, Tony Foster and the new daughter, Tobet, have returned to Red River after several weeks in Raton. Wade and Bertha Stribling enjoyed several days elk hunting in Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Patrick have returned from a month's stay in California. Mrs. L. S. Lewis visited her daughter in Dalhart, Texas, for several weeks. She is again in Red River. Walter and Winifred Hamilton accompanied their sister, Miss Florence Oldham of Santa Fe, on a ten days trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, Boulder Dam and other points. Winifred was one of the teachers at the first school in Boulder City. Fishing has been exceptionally good in the Red River during September and October. The weather has been perfect and a good number of fishermen have taken advantage of the conditions. Buddy Gallagher topped them all. He was fishing up near Little Enid and landed a beauty 24 inches long and weighing better than three and a half pounds. A few days later he pulled out another one near Rio Colorado lodge which was 27 inches and weighed over four pounds."

J. B. Carmon, manager of the Molybdenum Mine wrote this about it: "Along with our recreational facilities, Red River lays claim to an Industrial Section consisting of the Molybdenum Mine which is the property of the Molybdenum Corporation of America. It is that group of buildings and flumes five miles down the canyon on the road to Questa and Taos. No doubt many tourists have curiously observed this plant with the passing thought that it was just another mine in the mountains. It is our thought that few, very few, have ever known what a tremendously important niche this mine and mill occupies in our National Defense as well as our every day industrial life.

"Molybdenum is an alloy used in the process of hardening steel, and it is a matter of record that this mine produces the finest quality on the market today. Their volume is not so great, but at that, they turn out almost one per cent of the nation's supply. From the surface you would

never suspect it, but there is a network of some twenty miles of underground tunnels reaching down to a depth of fifteen hundred feet. The ore is brought out and put through the mill where it undergoes a process of agitation in oil. This causes bubbles in the oil and the particles of molybdenum cling to the bubbles and are floated off, while the heavier elements sink to the bottom and eventually reach the refuse dump.

"Mr. Jimmy Fahy of Colorado is accredited with the discovery of this lode, and later Dr. George W. Sargent, Vice-President in charge of research, of the Crucible Steel Company, became interested, resigned from the Crucible Steel Company, and organized the R & S Molybdenum Company. Later it was acquired by the Molybdenum Corporation of America.

"Prior to 1916, the use of Molybdenum was limited principally to certain laboratory work, and its rise to high commercial value is very interesting. During the first World War the Allies learned in some way, perhaps from captured material, that the Germans were using molybdenum in their steel processes with considerable success, so the search for this valuable mineral was on. The result has culminated in the building of a great industry; one that really did its share against the enemy in World War II. So, Red River is proud of its industrial activities. Industrial sections of the nation over are similar and we are right in step with the best of them in accordance with the present day trend."

"Captain Horace J. Johnson, one of the most colorful personalities ever to reside in Red River, died at San Rafael hospital, Trinidad, Colorado, November 13, 1948, after a lingering illness of several months. He was born in Michigan seventy-eight years ago. Captain Johnson came to Red River in 1923 after serving in the U.S. Indian Service for nearly thirty years as Indian Agent in New Mexico and Oklahoma. He became associated with T. D. Neal, well-known Eagle Nest businessman and operated a general merchandise store and real estate business in Red River. He also served as Red River's postmaster for twelve years. Always interested in the community's welfare, he gave much of his time

and resources towards the development of the Red River area and could always be depended upon to take an active part in any worthy movement." (RED RIVER RUSTLER, December, 1948.)

"Spirit of Christmas is easily found in this secluded spot amid the towering mountains so thickly covered with nature's own Christmas trees . . . the ice fringed river rushing on its way, and the red and green roofs of the little village. There is no display of show windows but an abundance of nature's own decorations. There are no colored electric lights, but the stars, so brilliant, seem to be resting on the tree tops and cause each snow covered tree to glisten and glow in beauty. Santa Claus isn't on our corners, but the glimpse of a deer silhouetted against the distant sky makes you feel that old Santa and his sleigh are just behind. Sleigh rides, skiing and skating by night with a big bonfire on the edge of a lake presents a perfect Yuletide setting. This joyful season in Red River is more like the ones our forefathers knew. After a feast of perhaps wild turkey and venison, we gather around a crackling log fire with friends and neighbors for a restful evening of relaxation. All of which brings one to a closer realization that 'God's in His Heaven. all's right with the world'." (ibid)

During the mining days prospectors were aware that Red River was a mining camp. Now tourists know that it is a recreational center. Motels and cottages have the edge: Roemer's Cabins; Prunty's Cottages; Tall Pine Camp; Grandview Camp; Pioneer Lodge and Cabins; Patrick's Sport Shop; Rio Colorado Lodge and Cottages; Siesta Lodge; Young's Dude Ranch; Gallagher & Gwinn Pack Trips; El Sombrero Lodge & Cabins; Monte Vista Lodge; Silver Spruce Tavern; Lewis' Ranch; Aspen Park Guest House; Riverside Lodge & Cabins; Three Canyon Camp; Navajo Lodge; Thunderbird Courts, and so many others to remind the visitor that the days of the early log cabin abodes are gone; luxury and comfort have come to Red River. The beauty remains. This the editor of the RUSTLER pointed out to his readers when he told them that the village is indeed surrounded by the best Mother Nature has to offer.

"When you stand gazing at these majestic mountains with their rich carpets of huge forests and the horizon appears at your finger tips, you are seized with an awesome impulse to go scampering right up into the heart of them. However, as an alternative, you just stand and wonder what lies just over the rim.

"By means of horseback and pack trips, you can get over this rim in all directions from Red River and enter some of the wildest and most fascinating country to be found in the whole Rocky Mountain region. You will find wildlife in abundance; aspen forests that cover miles of ground and always interesting as they reflect a quiet stillness which you can only experience there; tumbled down cabins that were once the homes of rugged prospectors; abandoned mines, some still housing fine machinery, once the pride and joy of somebody, and you wonder how on earth they ever got up there; and shambles of old ghost towns that were rip-roaring communities in the good old days.

"But the jewels of this wild and primitive country are the many beautiful lakes. Some nineteen of these lakes are within twenty miles of Red River, and offer perfect settings for that long anticipated trip into the wilds. They are all natural lakes, but some have been enlarged by raising the outlets; and are ideal for trout propagation. Also, the Game and Fish Department keeps them well stocked. All of them are near timberline and their elevations vary from ten thousand to twelve thousand feet.

"Nearest to Red River is Pioneer canyon and turning off before reaching it is Gold Hill. Also, you can motor to Aspen Park, then go on horseback up Goose Creek Trail. This one covers about fifteen acres; is well hidden and very easy to bypass. Near the lake is a very large glacier-like snow-bank which seldom disappears entirely. The trip requires about two to two and a half hours going up, but less time coming down, as the horses are heading for home and need no urging. So, it makes an ideal trip for a day, and you can have several hours of good fishing.

"Cabresto Lake is among the prettiest, and is the only

one to be reached by automobile. It is about seven miles by horseback and about twenty miles by car. To reach it by auto, you go to Questa, then north five miles on the Cabresto road and on up Cabresto canyon. There are picnic grounds with tables and outdoor fireplaces on a high ledge overlooking the lake, which offers a perfect place for a day's picnic. Its size is about fifteen acres.

"Blue Lake is the aristocrat and most famous of all. Also, one of the most beautiful, covering about twenty acres in thickly wooded surroundings. Some eighteen miles up Red River canyon, it is too much for a round trip in a day on horseback. However, you can go over half the distance by automobile, then take to the saddle. This is the Sacred Lake of the (Taos) Pueblo Indians, and is closed to the public for about fifteen days during August when the Indians are conducting their religious ceremonies. The Indians have erected a large wooden cross on the ridge above the lake. During the remainder of the summer, this is a fine place for some serious fishing, and the big ones predominate . . ." (o.c. April, 1948).



MAY 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

